Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The welding torch according to claim ~~5~~ 14, further comprising an indicator arranged in the freely movable end region of the wire core, and wherein the sensor comprises at least one coil surrounding said indicator and having an inductance that is changeable by the position of the indicator.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The welding torch according to claim 14, wherein the welding wire extends from the wire core, the wire core terminating immediately after the connection region, and wherein the welding wire is subsequently arranged to extend barely as far as to the drive unit.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The welding torch according to claim 13, wherein the welding wire is arranged within a flexible guide hose and extends from a wire core, the wire core terminating immediately after the connection region.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The welding torch according to claim 13, wherein the welding wire is unguided and wherein limit elements are arranged in the torch body to delimit the curved course of the unguided welding wire.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The welding torch according to claim 13, wherein the connection of the hose pack to the torch body is realized by a coupling device.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The welding torch according to claim 13, wherein the hose pack is arranged to be adjustable relative to the torch body so as to enable a change of the amount of welding wire contained in the wire buffer storage by such an adjustment.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A welding torch having a central axis comprising:

(a) a torch body;

(b) a drive unit for conveying a welding wire at different wire-conveying speeds or for a forward/rearward wire conveyance;

(c) a hose pack connected at a connection region to the torch body at an angle of up to 90 degrees relative to the central axis;

(d) a wire buffer storage arranged immediately after the connection region within the torch body, said wire buffer storage containing a portion of the welding wire, said portion following a curved course between said connection region and said drive unit, the portion of the welding wire contained in said wire buffer storage being adjustable by a change of said curved course; and

(e) a sensor to detect the welding wire stored in the wire buffer storage, said sensor being arranged between the drive unit and the connection region <u>to detect the movement of the wire core in the freely movable end region of the wire core</u>.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A welding torch having a central axis comprising:

(a) a torch body;

(b) a drive unit for conveying a welding wire at different wire-conveying speeds or for a forward/rearward wire conveyance;

(c) a hose pack connected at a connection region to the torch body at an angle of up to 90 degrees relative to the central axis;

(d) a wire buffer storage arranged immediately after the connection region within the torch body, said wire buffer storage containing a portion of the welding wire and being formed from a wire core arranged in an end region within the torch body so as to be freely movable in the longitudinal direction, said wire core following a curved course between said connection region and said drive unit, the portion of the welding wire contained in said wire buffer storage being adjustable by a change of said curved course; and

(e) a sensor to detect the welding wire stored in the wire buffer storage, said sensor being arranged between the drive unit and the connection region to detect the movement of the wire core in the freely movable end region of the wire core.